

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

These claims replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

1 1. (Currently Amended) A connector sleeve, comprising:
2 ~~means for receiving a first end of a tubing assembly junction;~~
3 ~~means for engaging encompassing a portion of a tubing assembly junction having a first~~
4 ~~end proximal to a first end of the sleeve and a substantial portion of a first tube proximal to the~~
5 ~~first end of the tubing assembly junction, the means for encompassing a portion of the tubing~~
6 ~~assembly junction enabling observation the tubing assembly junction within the length of the~~
7 ~~sleeve while securing the first tube to the tubing assembly junction; and~~
8 ~~means for encompassing a portion of a second tube proximal to a second end of the~~
9 ~~tubing assembly junction, the means for encompassing a portion of the second tube enabling~~
10 ~~observation of the second tube within the length of the sleeve while securing the second tube to~~
11 ~~the tubing assembly junction~~
12 ~~means for receiving a second end of a tubing assembly junction; and~~
13 ~~means for securely coupling the tubing assembly junction wherein forces applied along~~
14 ~~the longitudinal axis of the tubing assembly do not result in disengagement of the tubing~~
15 ~~assembly at the junction.~~

1 2. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for ~~engaging~~
2 ~~encompassing a portion of a tubing assembly junction~~ comprises a housing with an aperture.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for ~~receiving a~~
2 ~~first end encompassing a portion of a second tube~~ comprises a housing with a slot.

1 4. (Canceled)

1 5. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for ~~securely~~
2 ~~coupling securing~~ comprises a tapered inner surface of the housing.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for ~~securely~~
2 ~~coupling~~ securing comprises a restrictor.

1 7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 3, wherein the slot is substantially
2 parallel with the longitudinal axis of the connector sleeve.

1 9. (Original) The connector of claim 6, wherein the restrictor comprises a plate.

1 10. (Original) The connector of claim 6, wherein the restrictor comprises a tab.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 8, wherein the housing forms a slot
2 having a width that is smaller than the outer diameter of ~~an exit~~ the second tube of the tubing
3 assembly.

1 12. (Original) The connector of claim 9, wherein the plate forms an inlet port having a
2 width that is smaller than the outer diameter of an inlet tube of the tubing assembly.

1 13. (Original) The connector of claim 9, wherein the plate forms an inlet port having a
2 width that is smaller than the outer diameter of a nipple of a coupler of the tubing assembly.

1 14. (Original) The connector of claim 10, wherein the tab is biased into the aperture of
2 the housing.

1 15-19. (Canceled)

1 20. (Currently Amended) A connector sleeve, comprising:
2 ~~a housing having an inlet port, an outlet port, and a tapered inner surface, wherein the~~
3 ~~housing is configured to closely surround and~~ a housing comprising:
4 a first portion that includes an aperture along the longitudinal axis of the sleeve
5 and a restrictor that intrudes from the housing, the first portion configured to encompass a
6 portion of a tubing assembly junction and contact a first end of a the tubing assembly junction;
7 and
8 a second portion that includes a slot along the longitudinal axis of the sleeve and a
9 tapered inner surface, the second portion configured to closely surround and contact a second end
10 of the tubing assembly junction ~~a restrictor fixedly attached to the housing, the restrictor~~
11 ~~configured to engage a second end of the tubing junction.~~

1 21. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 20, further comprising:
2 a transverse wall forming an inlet port proximal to a first end of the sleeve, the inlet port
3 configured to substantially surround a portion of the circumference of a first tube coupled to the
4 tubing assembly junction.

1 22. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 21, wherein the transverse wall contacts the
2 outer surface of the first tube.

1 23. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 21, wherein the inlet port has a width that is
2 smaller than the outer diameter of a nipple of a coupler of the tubing assembly.

1 24. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 20, wherein the restrictor comprises a
2 transverse wall that engages the first tube.

1 25. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 20, wherein the restrictor comprises at least
2 one tab substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the connector sleeve.

1 26. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 24, wherein the at least one tab is biased into
2 the aperture of the housing.

1 27. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 20, further comprising:
2 an outlet port proximal to a second end of the sleeve, the outlet port configured to
3 substantially surround a portion of the circumference of a second tube coupled to the tubing
4 assembly junction.